

# Looking for HNLs via Double Bang signals

Iván Martínez Soler

NuTau2021 Workshop

October 1, 2021



Northwestern  
University



# Motivation

- ▶ In SM neutrinos are massless.
  - ▶ No dirac mass term for neutrinos. No right-handed neutrino.
  - ▶ From oscillation experiment ( $m_\nu \neq 0$ )
- ▶ SM can be considered as low energy effective model.

$$\mathcal{L}_{eff} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \frac{\mathcal{L}_{d=5}}{\Lambda} + \dots$$

- ▶ For  $d = 5$ . Weinberg operator.
- ▶ Type-I seesaw

# Motivation

See Jacobo Lopez-Pavon's talk

Type-I seesaw

- ▶ Introduce right-handed neutrinos
- ▶ Allow L number violation

$$\mathcal{L}_{mass}^{\nu} \supset Y_{\nu} \bar{L}_L \tilde{\phi} N_R + \frac{1}{2} M_R \bar{N}_R^c N_R + h.c.$$

- ▶ For  $M_R \gg v$

$$m_{\nu} \sim \frac{Y_{\nu}^{\dagger} Y_{\nu} v^2}{M_R} \quad m_N \approx M_R + \mathcal{O}(m_{\nu})$$

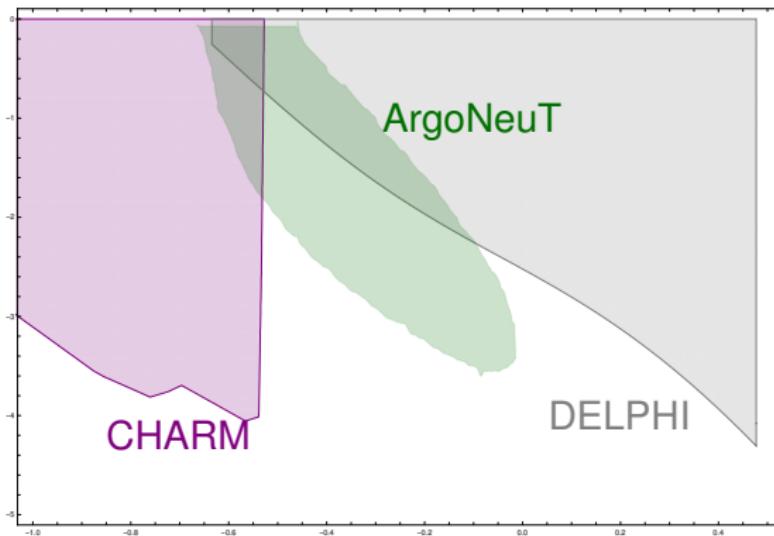
- ▶ Neutrino masses can be smaller than fermion masses
- ▶ Heavy neutrinos can hardly be tested
- ▶ Tight bounds from charged lepton flavor violating experiments

# Heavy sterile neutrino

In the presence of  $N_R$ , the flavor states can be written as a superposition of massive states as

$$\nu_{\alpha L} = \sum U_{\alpha m} \nu_{mL} + U_{\alpha 4} N_{4L}$$

In the presence of  $\nu - N - Z$  interaction



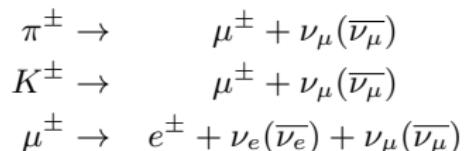
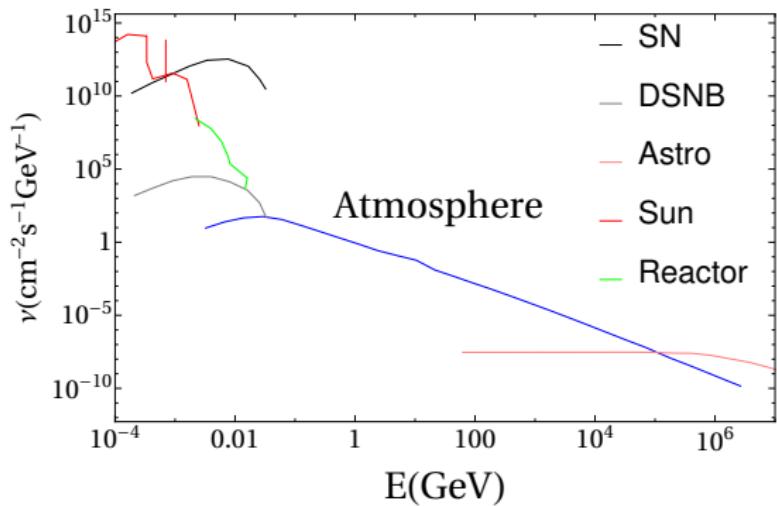
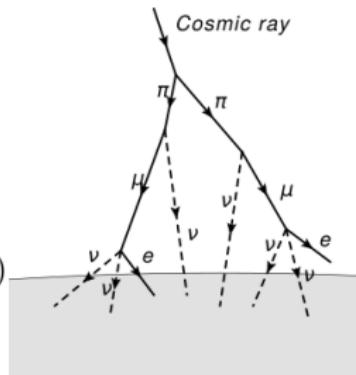
Weaker constraints  
over  $U_{\tau 4}$

[A. Atre, T. Han, S. Pascoli, and B. Zhang, JHEP 05,030 (2009)]

# Sources of $\nu_\tau$ : Atmosphere

$\nu_\tau$  are created by the flavor oscillation of the atmospheric neutrinos

- ▶ Created in the collisions of cosmic rays with the atmosphere.
- ▶ Atmospheric flux covers a wide range of energies ( $\phi_\nu \sim E_\nu^{-2.7}$ )



See Tyce DeYoung's talk

# Sources of $\nu_\tau$ : Atmosphere

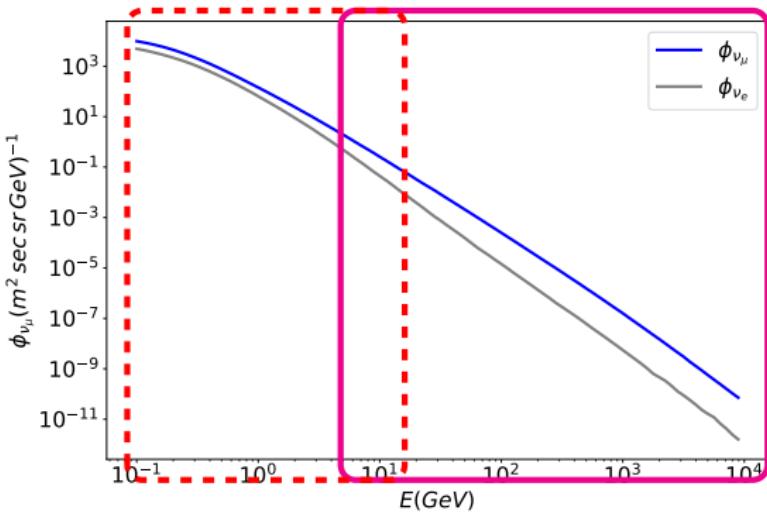
The combination of several experiments will allow exploring the whole energy range of the atmospheric neutrino flux

DUNE

IceCube/DeepCore

## DUNE

- ▶ 40 kton LArTPC
- ▶ Measures the neutrino flux from the Sub-GeV
- ▶ **Good event topology reconstruction** at low energies



## IceCube/DeepCore

- ▶  $\sim 1\text{km}^3$  ice Cherenkov
- ▶ Measures the **high energy** part of the flux  $E \geq 5\text{ GeV}$
- ▶ Events sample divided in: cascades and tracks

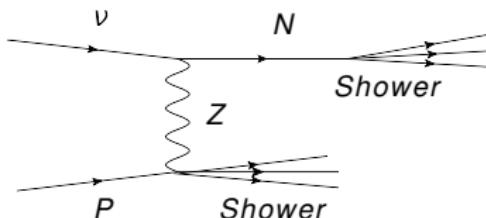
# Observation of HNLs via Double Bang signals

- ▶ Heavy neutrinos can travel long distance with low initial energies.
- ▶ We will look for double bang signals:

$$\nu_\tau + N \rightarrow N_4 + \text{shower}$$

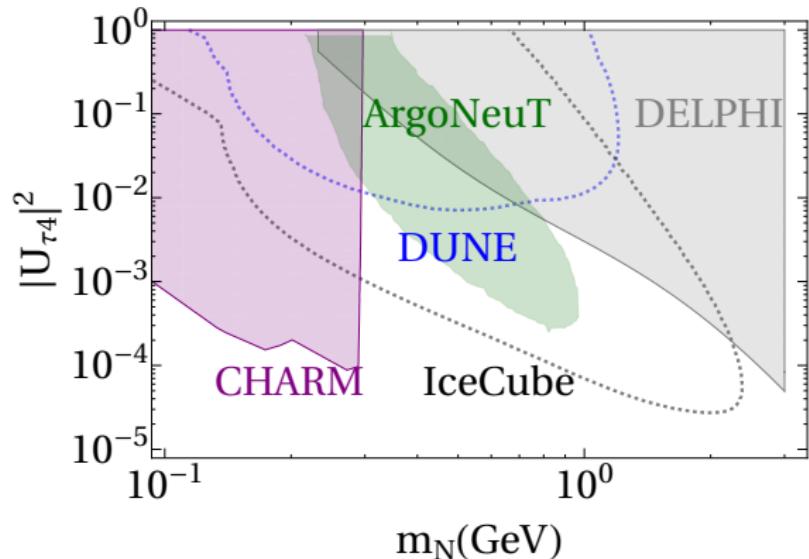
$$N_4 \rightarrow \text{shower}$$

- ▶ The decay length depends on  $M_4$  and on  $|U_{\tau 4}|^2$
- ▶ Cross section proportional to mixing parameter  $|U_{\tau 4}|^2$



# Double Bang signals

Double-Bang signals can be used to search for **HNLs** in IceCube and DUNE

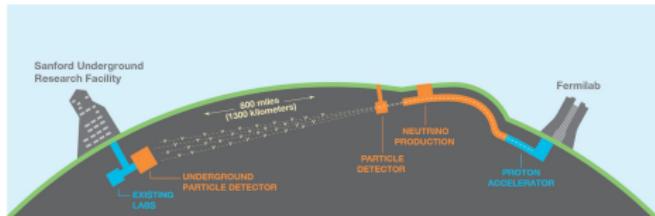


$$L_{\text{lab}} = c\tau\gamma\beta \simeq 10 \text{ m} \left( \frac{10^{-2}}{|U_{\tau 4}|^2} \right) \left( \frac{0.5 \text{ GeV}}{m_N} \right)^5 \left( \frac{E_N}{1 \text{ GeV}} \right)$$

Coloma, Machado, IMS, Shoemaker (1707.08573)  
Atkinson, Coloma, IMS, Rocco, Shoemaker (2105.09357)

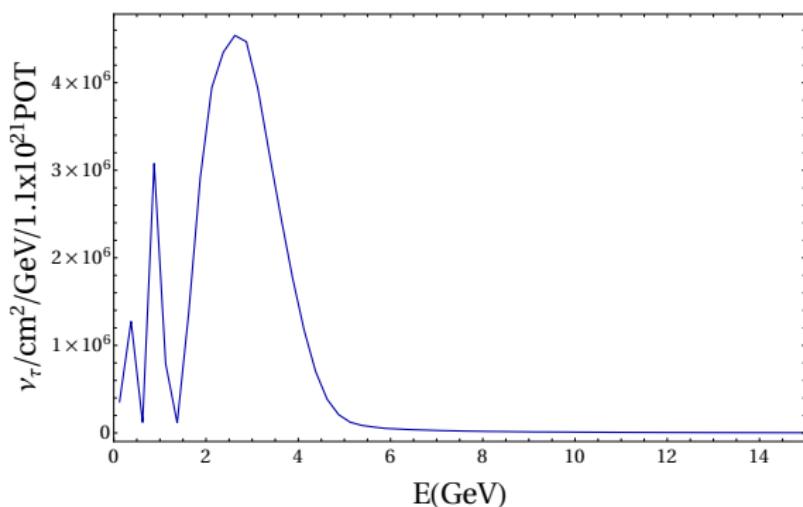
# Sources of $\nu_\tau$ : Beam

LBL experiments can also search for **double bang cascades**.



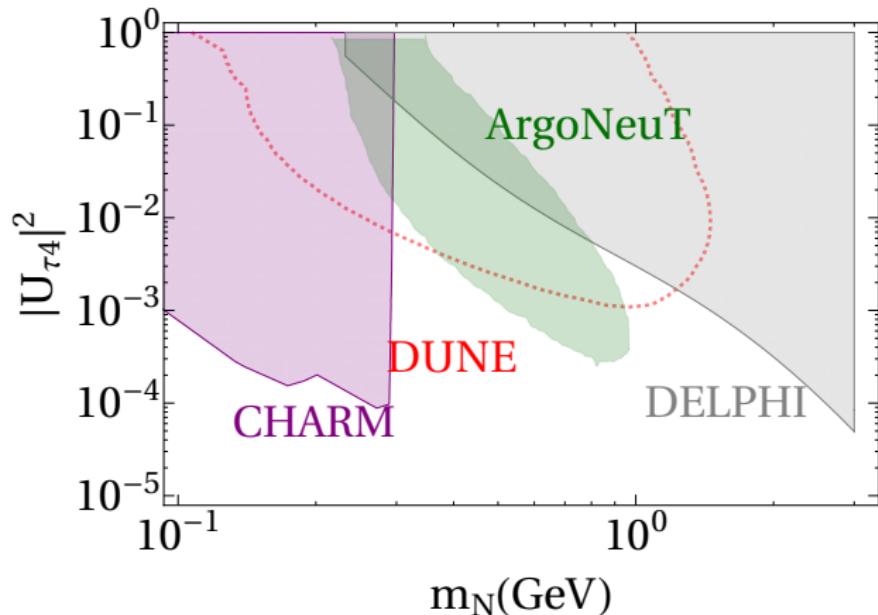
DUNE:

- ▶  $\nu_\mu$  flux that peaks at ~ 2 GeV and propagates ~ 1000 km
  
- ▶  $\nu_\tau$  flux at the far detector due to the flavor oscillation of  $\nu_\mu$ .



# Double Bang signals

The beam can provide a complementary sensitivity to the present bounds.

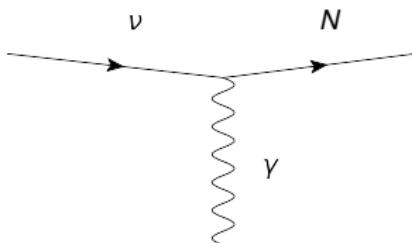


# Transition magnetic moment

Other BSM scenarios can be explored using Double-bang signals

Transition magnetic moment

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\mu_\nu \bar{N}_4 \sigma_{\mu\nu} P_L \nu_\alpha F^{\mu\nu}$$



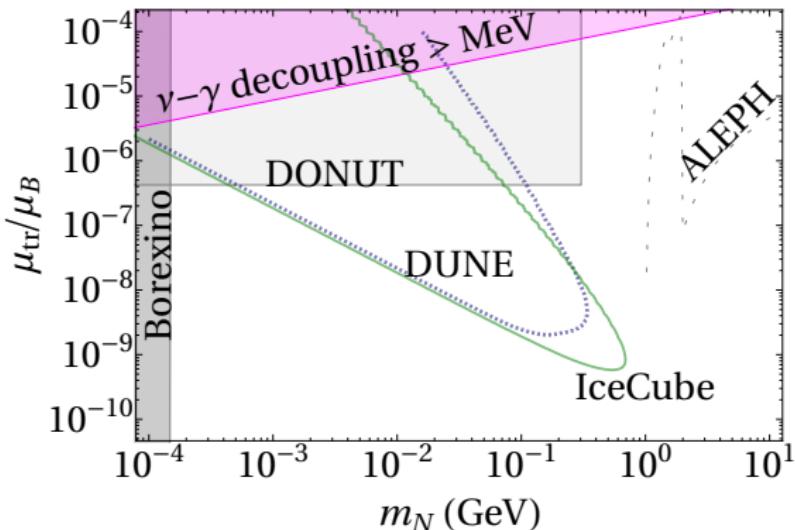
- ▶ The main contribution to our signal events comes from DIS on nucleons
- ▶ The decay length  $N \rightarrow \nu_i \gamma$

$$\Gamma = \frac{\mu_\nu^2 M_4^3}{4\pi}$$

See Jing-yu Zhu's talk

# Transition magnetic moment

Double-Bang signals can be used to search for neutrino **transition magnetic moments**

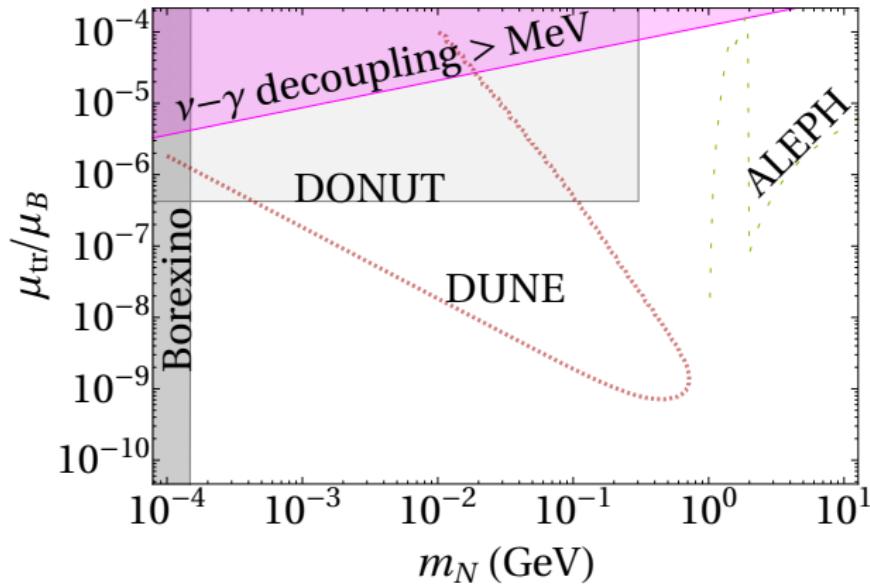


$$L_{\text{lab}} = c\tau\gamma\beta \simeq 2.5 \text{ m} \left( \frac{10^{-8} \mu_B}{\mu} \right)^2 \left( \frac{100 \text{ MeV}}{m_N} \right)^4 \left( \frac{E_N}{1 \text{ GeV}} \right)$$

Coloma, Machado, IMS, Shoemaker (1707.08573)  
Atkinson, Coloma, IMS, Rocco, Shoemaker (2105.09357)

# Transition magnetic moment

The **beam** will allow exploring a large region of the transition magnetic moments



Atkinson, Coloma, IMS, Rocco, Shoemaker (2105.09357)

# Conclusions

- ▶ **Double Bang** signals can probe **new physics**
- ▶ **HNLs** via neutral current interaction
  - ▶ IceCube and DUNE could increase the current bounds by 1 or 2 orders of magnitude.
- ▶ **Transition magnetic moments**  
Competitive bounds on  $\mu_\nu$  for  $\nu_\tau$  for  $m_N \sim 1$  GeV.

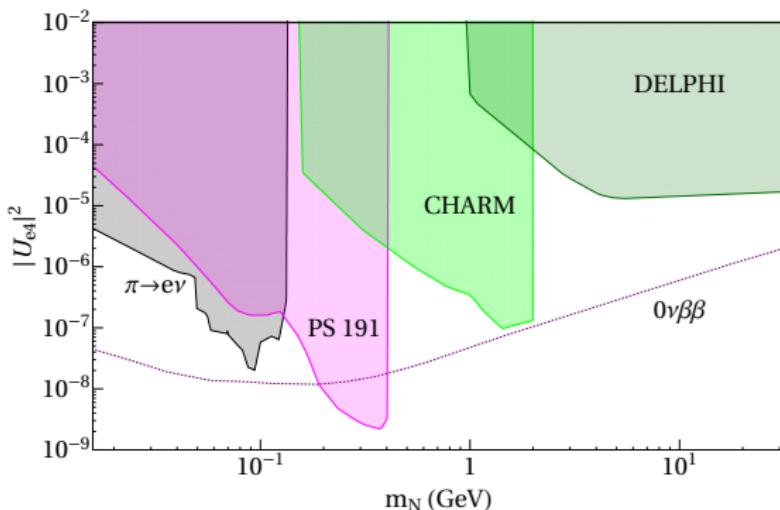
Thank you!

# Backup: Heavy sterile neutrino

- Sterile mass mixing with active neutrinos

$$\nu_{\alpha L} = \sum U_{\alpha m} \nu_{mL} + U_{\alpha 4} N_{4L}$$

In the presence of  $\nu - N - Z$  interaction



Strong bounds on  
 $U_{e4}$  and  $U_{\mu 4}$

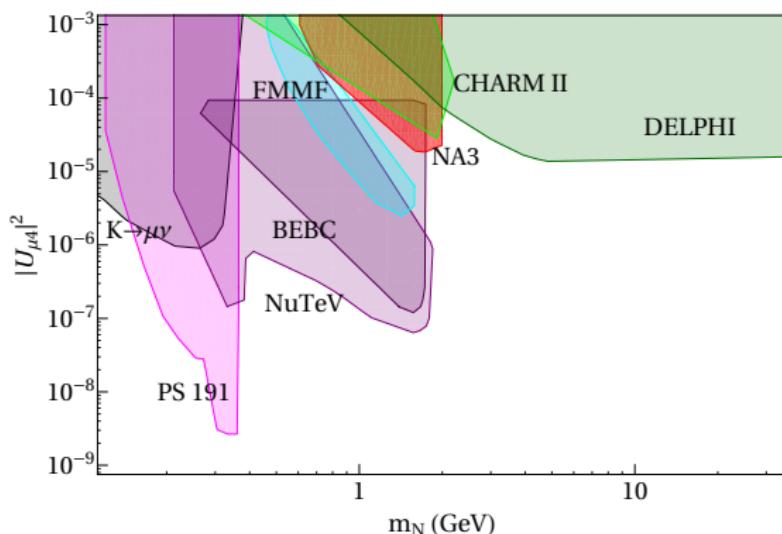
[A. Atre, T. Han, S. Pascoli, and B. Zhang, JHEP 05,030 (2009)]

# Backup: Heavy sterile neutrino

- Sterile mass mixing with active neutrinos

$$\nu_{\alpha L} = \sum U_{\alpha m} \nu_{mL} + U_{\alpha 4} N_{4L}$$

In the presence of  $\nu - N - Z$  interaction



Strong bounds on  
 $U_{e4}$  and  $U_{\mu 4}$

[A. Atre, T. Han, S. Pascoli, and B. Zhang, JHEP 05,030 (2009)]

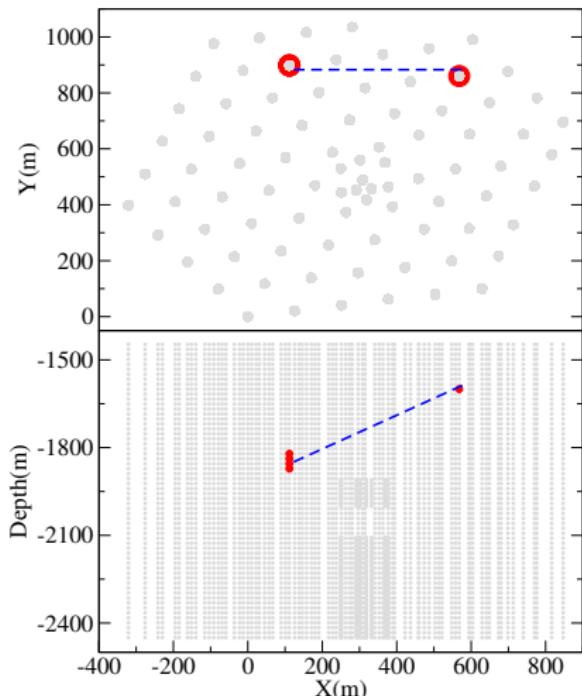
# Backup: Heavy sterile neutrino

The number of events in the detector is given by

$$N(L) \propto T\mathcal{B} \int dE d\cos\theta \phi_{\nu_\alpha} P_{\alpha \rightarrow \tau} \sigma_{\nu_\tau \nu_4} P_d V_{eff}$$

Our Monte Carlo

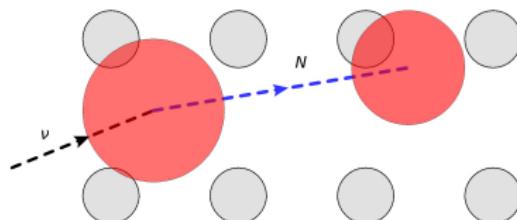
- ▶ The largest contribution comes from low energy neutrinos ( $\phi \sim E^{-2.7}$ )
- ▶  $V_{eff}(L, \cos\theta)$  calculated using a montecarlo integration.
- ▶ The cascade separation must be  $L > 20$  m
- ▶ Minimum energy for each cascade  $E > 5$  GeV
- ▶  $N_{bkg} < 10^{-11} yr^{-1}$



# Backup: Double Bang topology to look for New physics

Double bang signals mediated by right-handed neutrinos

- ▶ 1st shower  $\nu$  interaction
- ▶ 2nd shower  $N$  decay
- ▶ No cherenkov radiation in between



What kind of new physics?

# Backup: Transition magnetic moment

$\nu_\mu - N$  transition

